

United States Courts For the District of Idaho WiFi for Litigants



The United States District and Bankruptcy Court for the District of Idaho has installed a Wi-Fi network for use by litigants and those who work with litigants.

The Federal Court is not providing secured access. Everyone who uses the Wi-Fi network is strongly encouraged to use security software that provides a good firewall and virus protection. This project will be evaluated over the next year to determine the impact on court proceedings.

This system may only be used for business purposes. Examples of acceptable use within the courthouse include: access to ECF, checking business e-mails, and conducting legal research.

There are several items which are prohibited while using this court network as follows:

- Recording of any proceedings or use of streaming video to broadcast proceedings
- Using the equipment in an attempt to interfere with or influence jurors, witnesses or other court participants
- Using the equipment for activities that are illegal, inappropriate or offensive to the court or the public, such as hate speech, or materials that ridicule others on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, gender, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation
- Creating, downloading, viewing, storing, copying, transmitting, or retransmitting sexually explicit or sexually oriented material or material related to illegal gambling, illegal weapons, terrorist activities, any other illegal or prohibited activities;

Any violations of the above will result in immediate suspension of Wi-Fi access privileges.

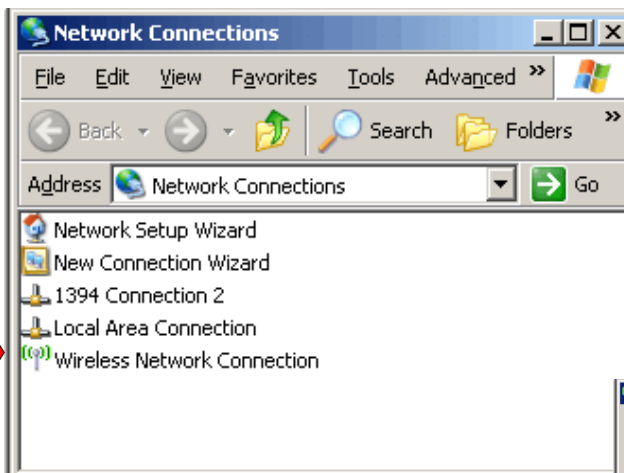
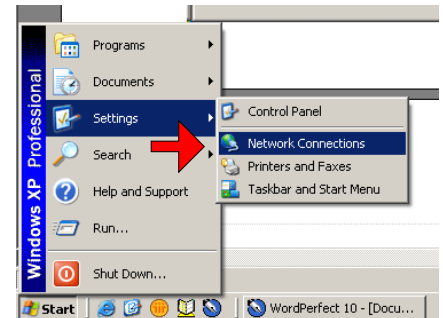
In addition, if the noise level of notebook computers or access to this Wi-Fi network causes a disruption to court proceedings, the presiding judge or the Court Security Officer, may limit access at any time.

We are hopeful that access in the courtroom to the ECF system and your private e-mail accounts will improve the administration of justice in the District of Idaho.

Connecting to the wireless network from a notebook computer

Connecting to a wireless network will vary from network to network since the connection technique depends on the configuration of the system (Wireless Access Point) as well as the configuration of your workstation. This discussion below assumes that your workstation has Windows XP. If your configuration varies, you may need to consult with your IT support staff. You will need to ask for the network name (SSID) card from your courtroom deputy in order to complete this setup.

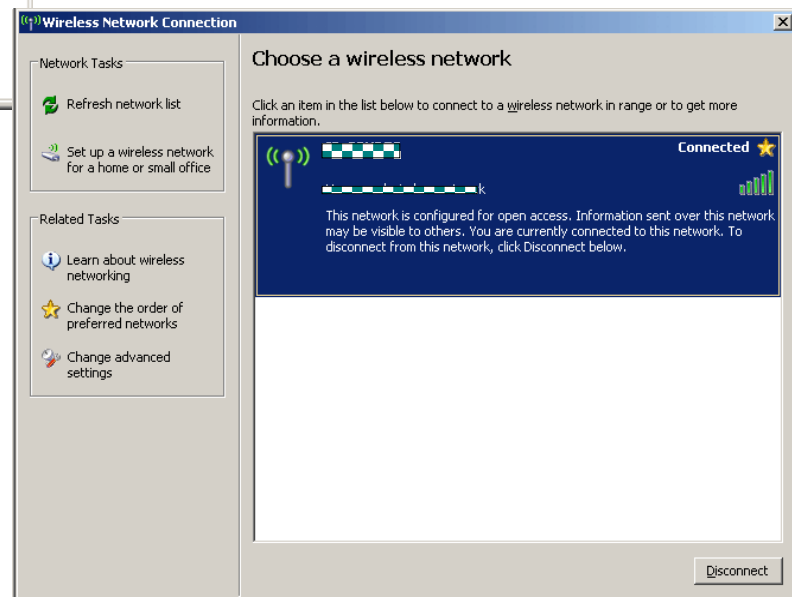
As a user of this Wi-Fi network you will need to manually create the wireless network connection on your personal computer. Our system does not broadcast its presence so your wireless notebook will not automatically discover it. In order to manually set up your wireless access for our open network, you need access your network connections menu on your Control Panel. Do this by clicking on the start menu, choose Settings and then Control Panel. Now double click on the Network Connections item and you will a menu similar to the one below.

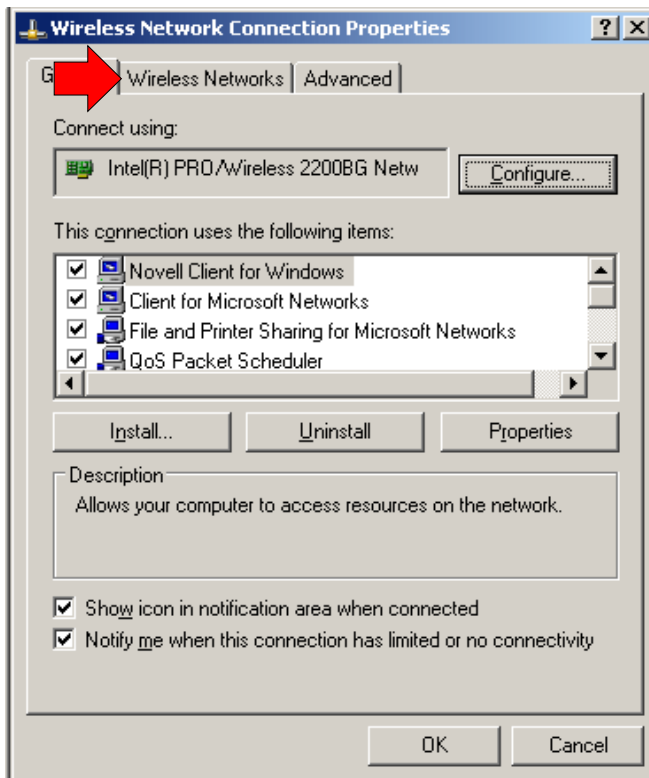


Double click on the Wireless network connection to see the “Wireless Network Connection” window.

At the bottom of the left hand side under Related Tasks, please click on the Change advanced settings link and you will be presented with the window on the next page.

(Note: The first time you open this window, the Court’s wireless network will not appear. You will have to manually configure this the first time you access it)



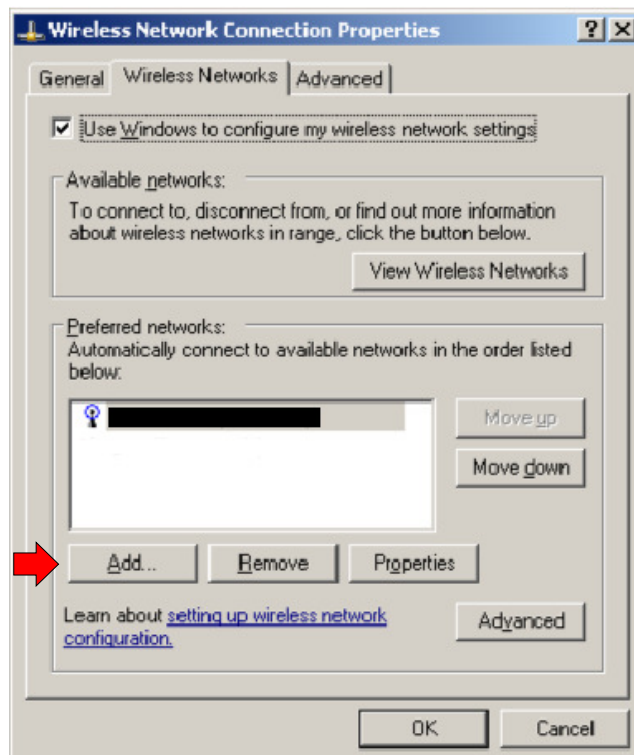


show any wireless networks you have accessed in the past, and those manually configured for your system.

Click on the “Add” button.

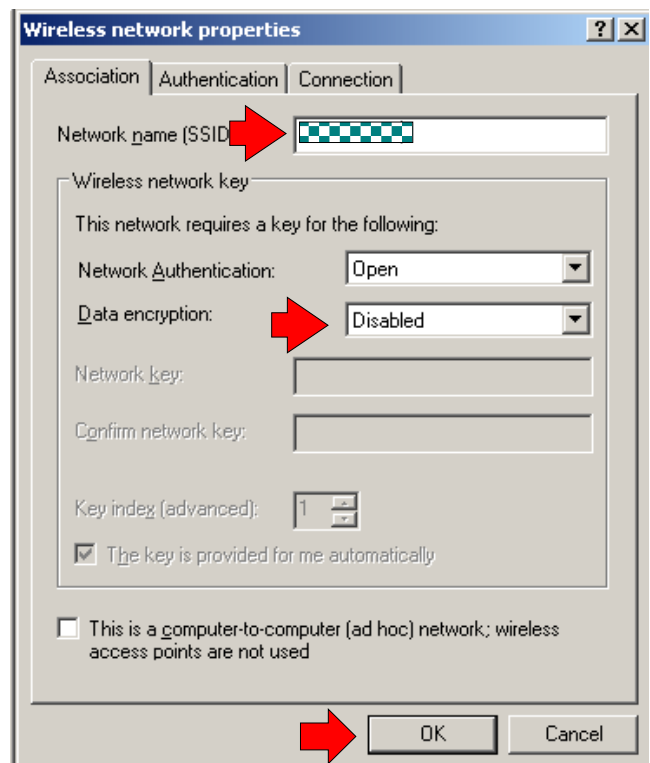
Click on the Wireless Networks tab to display the Wireless Network Connection Properties window (shown below):

The image below is an example of the screen presented when selecting the Wireless Networks tab from your computer. This will



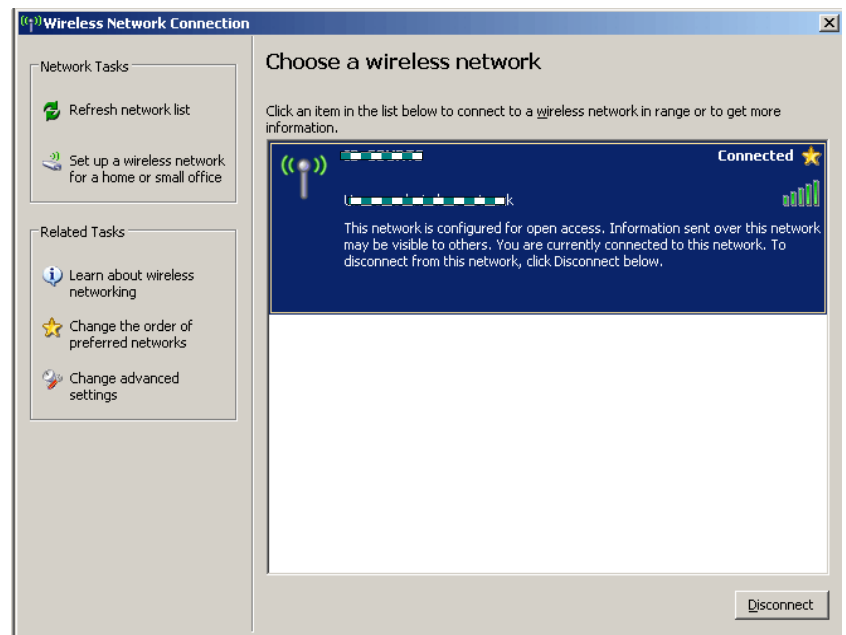
The window to the right will appear, where you will add the network name provided by the Courtroom Deputy. Leave Network Authentication set to “Open” and Data encryption “Disabled”. No changes are necessary on the Authentication or Connection tabs. Then click on OK.

The Courtroom Deputy will provide the network name on a business card. For security purposes, this will change periodically so if you attempt to use the wireless network at a later date and cannot establish a connection, please ask the Courtroom Deputy for the latest network name.



The Wireless Network Connection Properties window shown above will appear again, with this new network showing. Now click on OK again and you will be back to the Wireless Network Connection window shown here. If your computer is already showing connected you are done and can close the window. Otherwise, you may need to click on the new manually configured network once to connect.

(TIP: If the network still doesn't show here click on the "Refresh network list" link)



The next time you come into the federal courthouse your computer should automatically connect to the Wi-Fi network.

Security regarding Wireless network used at Idaho Federal Courts

The US Courts wireless network is an open network. That means that no security is provided on the network. The DSL modem provides a very rudimentary firewall to help protect you from Internet intrusion attempts, but there is no security within the wireless network. **You are responsible for your own security when using the court wireless service.** We recommend you consider a software security suite that provides a good personal firewall and anti-virus protection. There are a number of fine products on the market today. It is beyond the scope of this document to identify a comprehensive list, but just to name a couple, McAfee and Symantec offer highly regarded security suites.

System Requirements:

- Computer with 802.11b or 802.11g compatible Wireless network card.
- TCP/IP Network protocol (part of typical installation so likely installed already).
- Internet Security suite **HIGHLY** recommended.

